What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating a subject with arthritis or arthritic disease or preventing arthritis or arthritic disease in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an agent that attenuates annexin function.

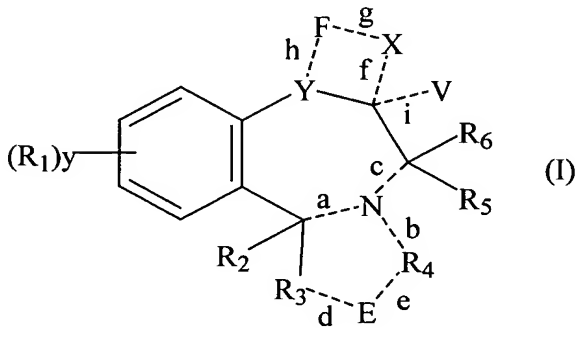
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the attenuated annexin function is a function of an annexin that binds collagen.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the annexin binds type II collagen.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the annexin that binds type II collagen is annexin V or annexin X.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the treatment or prevention is effected by increasing collagen synthesis or decreasing collagen degradation.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent has the structure I:



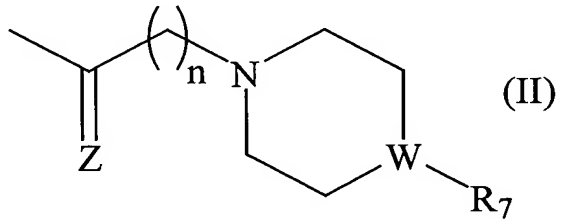
(I)

wherein y is from 1 to 4, wherein each R_1 is, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, a branched or straight chain alkoxy group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an ester group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group, a cyano group, an amide group, a nitro group, a hydroxy group, a halo group, a thio group, or a trihalomethyl group;

R_2 and R_6 are, independently, hydrogen, hydroxy, or branched or straight chain alkyl;

R_3 is hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;

R_4 is hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, an acyl group, a cycloalkyl group, oxygen, or a group having the structure II



(II)

wherein W is carbon or nitrogen; Z is oxygen or H_2; n is 1 or 2; and R_7 is a branched or straight chain alkyl group, a branched or straight chain alkoxy group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, or a heteroaryl group;

R_5 is A-R_{10} or R_{10}, wherein A is a C_{1-4} branched or straight chain alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, an acyl group, an amino group, an amide group, an ester group, a keto group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, a sulfonamide group, or a combination thereof; or

R_5 and R_6 are collectively $=C(H)R_{10}$;

wherein R_{10} is substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl;

V is hydrogen; an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, an alkoxy group, or an alkenyloxy group;

X is oxygen, sulfur, hydrogen, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, an alkoxy group, an alkenyloxy group, or NR_8, wherein R_8 is hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group; or

Y is carbon, oxygen, sulfur, a sulfone group, a sulfoxide group, or NR_9, wherein R_9 is hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an ester group, an amino group, an amide group, a cyano group, or a trihalomethyl group;

wherein when bond a is a double bond, then R_3 is present and R_2 is not present; or when bond a is a single bond, then R_2 and R_3 are present;

wherein when bond c is a double bond, then R_5 is present and R_6 is not present; or when bond c is a single bond, then R_5 and R_6 are present;

wherein bonds a and c are not simultaneously double bonds;

wherein when bonds b, d, and e are present, then R_3-E-R_4 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group containing at least one heteroatom;

wherein when bond f is a double bond, then bond i and V are not present; or when bond f is a single bond, then bond i is a single bond and V is present;

wherein when bond f is a single bond or a double bond, then bonds g and h are not present; or when bond f is a single bond or a double bond, and bonds g and h are present, then F is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group containing at least one heteroatom;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

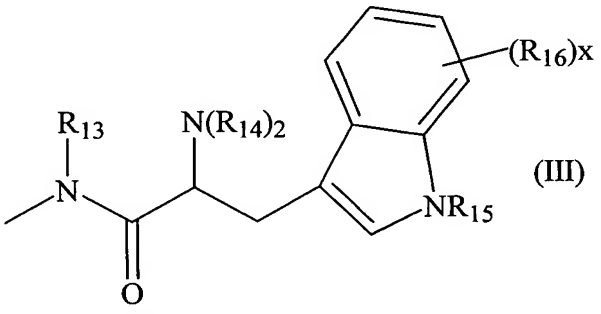
7. The method of claim 6, wherein Y is NR_9, wherein R_9 is a branched or straight chain alkyl group.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein Y is carbon.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein bond f is a double bond; bonds g and h are not present; and X is oxygen.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein R_5 is a group having the structure III

wherein R_{13}-R_{15} are, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain

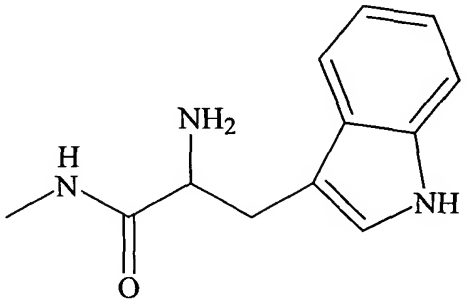


(III)

alkyl group, an acyl group, a cycloalkyl group, or an aryl group; and

x is from 1 to 4, wherein each R_{16} is, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, a branched or straight chain alkoxy group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an ester group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group, a cyano group, an amide group, a nitro group, a hydroxy group, a halo group, a thio group, or a trihalomethyl group.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein R_5 has the structure IV



(IV)

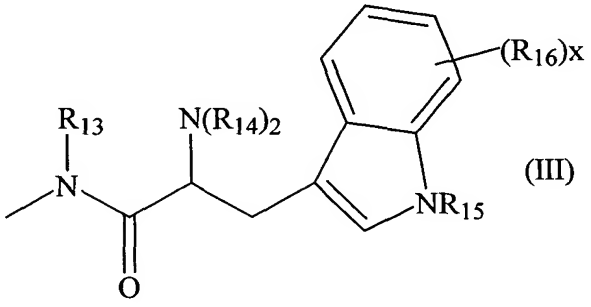
12. The method of claim 7, wherein bond a is a double bond and bond c is a single bond.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein y is 4 and each R_1 is hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, a branched or straight chain alkoxy group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an ester group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group, a cyano group, an amide group, a nitro group, a hydroxy group, a halo group, a thio group, or a trihalomethyl group.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein R_3 comprises a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group.

15. The method of claim 7, wherein R_4 is a branched or straight chain alkyl group or an acyl group.

16. The method of claim 6, wherein bonds a and f are double bonds; bond c is a single bond; bonds g and h are not present; X is oxygen; Y is NR_9; y is 4; each R_1 is hydrogen; R_3 comprises a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group; R_4 is a branched or straight chain alkyl group or an acyl group; and R_5 has the structure III



(III)

wherein R_{13}-R_{15} are, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, an acyl group, a cycloalkyl group, or an aryl group;

x is from 1 to 4, wherein each R_{16} is, independently, hydrogen, a branched or straight chain alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, a branched or straight chain alkoxy group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an ester group, a substituted or unsubstituted amino group, a cyano group, an amide group, a nitro group, a hydroxy group, a halo group, a thio group, or a trihalomethyl group.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is 3-(R,S)-(L-tryptophanyl)-1,3-dihydro-1-methyl-5-phenyl-2H-1,4-benzodiazepine-2-one.

18. The method of claim 6, wherein Y is sulfur.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein V and X are hydrogen.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein bonds g and h are not present, and bond f is a single bond.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein R_4 has the structure II.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein in structure II, W is nitrogen; Z is oxygen; n is 2, and R_7 is CH_2Ph.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein bonds a and c are single bonds, and bonds d and e are not present.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein R_1 is branched or straight chain alkoxy.

25. The method of claim 6, wherein bonds a, c, and f are single bonds; bonds d, e, g and h are not present; Y is sulfur; R_1 is branched or straight chain alkoxy; and R_4 has the structure II.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is 4-(3-(1-(4-benzyl)piperidinyl)propionyl)-7-methoxy-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzothiazepine.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is not 1,3-dihydro-1-methyl-5-phenyl-2H-1,4-benzodiazepine-2-one.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent comprises a benzodiazepine compound, a benzothiazepine compound, or a combination thereof.